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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/074,496 05/07/98 ALBRITTON

J 091078.0554

EXAMINER

PM82/0614

KIM, H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED:

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/074,496	Applicant(s) Albritton
	Examiner Harry C. Kim	Art Unit 3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 29, 2001
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
- Disposition of Claims**
- 4) Claim(s) 1-27, 29, 31-33, and 36-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 1-4, 13-23, 29, and 31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 5-12, 24-27, 32, 33, 36, and 39 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 37 and 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on Mar 29, 2001 is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 37, the recitation of “said joint” on line 7 lacks proper antecedent basis.

Please note that line 6 recites “a connecting joint **member**”.

Regarding claim 38, the recitation of “said upper post” on line 5 lacks proper antecedent basis. Please note that claim 37 recites “an upper post **member**”.

The preceding list is not intended to be a comprehensive recitation of the informalities. Applicant is urged to carefully review and make appropriate corrections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-12, 24-27, 32-33, 36, and 39 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 37-38 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Art Unit 3629

Interference

Claims 37-38 of this application have been *substantially* copied by the applicant from U. S. Patent No. 5,988,598. However, as discussed above, these claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. An interference cannot be initiated since a prerequisite for interference under 37 CFR 1.606 is that the claims be patentable to the applicant subject to a judgement in the interference.

Further, although claims 9, 36, 37, and 38 may correspond to the proposed count, claims 5 and 39 do not because they include the limitation of the rotatable coupling assembly being disposed *between* the upper and lower portions.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Harry C. Kim whose telephone number is (703) 308-2248. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 5:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne, can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

HCK
June 13, 2001


HARRY C. KIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECH CENTER 3600